

T. Woods, Paul Woods' 6'4" stature is dwarfed only by his impact on his family, community, and country.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution with my colleague, Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for their leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern "blood bank," which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health pro-

fessionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

More than 100 countries observe Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

RECOGNIZING MAJ. GEN. THOMAS F. GRABOWSKI

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski, who is retiring after 38 years of honorable service to the State of Georgia and our Nation.

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski retires as the Assistant Adjutant General—Air, Georgia National Guard, and Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard. In his duties and responsibilities, he led the Georgia State Air Guard headquarters team while overseeing a command of more than 2,900 Georgia Air National Guard members serving in two flying wings, seven geographically separated units, and an Air Dominance Center.

General Grabowski joined the Georgia Air National Guard in 1985 as an enlisted Telecommunications Specialist and quickly ascended through the ranks, becoming a commissioned officer in 1994. Over his career, he has commanded at the flight, squadron, and wing levels and closes out his distinguished career as the commanding general of all guard Airmen in the state.

General Grabowski's aviation career includes more than 2,700 flying hours: including more than 1,700 combat hours in the E-8C JSTARS supporting Operations IRAQ1 and ENDURING FREEDOM.

General Grabowski has spent the last 38 years embodying the Air Force's core values and the ideals of our Nation: Service before self, integrity first, and excellence in all we do. Although, his accomplishments have never overshadowed his humility. To this day, he wears hidden in his flight cap the insignia of the first rank he held in the military as a constant reminder of where he started.

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski is an exemplary leader, and I commend him for his service to the country and his commitment to the Georgia Air National Guard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call vote 65 on January 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

I regrettably also missed Roll Call vote 120 on February 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

I regrettably also missed Roll Call vote 121 on February 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

FEBRUARY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Dr. Wendy Stewart as my February Constituent of the Month.

Dr. Stewart serves as the inaugural interim Chief Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Officer at MiraCosta College where she has worked for more than a decade including her previous role at the college as Dean of Counseling and Student Development. She has spent over 25 years in education, helping to better the lives of students throughout the San Diego region.

Throughout her career, Dr. Stewart has been a fierce student advocate who has helped students access higher education and achieve their goals. Dr. Stewart is a shining example of what an educator should be—kind, dedicated, and passionate—and our region is better for it.

As we conclude Black History Month, I am especially proud to honor Dr. Stewart, an esteemed educator who uses her decades of experience and knowledge to contribute to our unique and beautiful district. Her story, passion to improve the lives of others, and academic achievements are honorable and that is why I am proud to honor Dr. Stewart as my February Constituent of the Month.

RECOGNIZING MARCUS BYRD FOR HIS SUCCESS IN PROFESSIONAL GOLF

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the closing days of Black History Month to recognize a professional golfer from the District of Columbia.

Marcus Byrd picked up his clubs at the First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C. at the historic Langston Golf Course in Northeast, honing his skills there and at a number of golf courses in nearby Prince George's County. He finished in 2nd place at the Maryland State High School Golf Championship in his freshman year. Shortly after, his family moved to Atlanta, Georgia. In 2013, he won the Georgia State Junior Championship and colleges began to take notice. Mr. Byrd earned a college golf scholarship to Middle Tennessee State University and quickly became one of the best players on the team. After a standout college career, Mr. Byrd turned professional in 2020. He is currently competing on the Advocaes Professional Golf Association Tour (APGA), which is aimed at increasing diversity in the sport. Mr. Byrd has two wins and five

second place finishes on the APGA since 2021. Tiger Woods awarded Mr. Byrd with the Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption into the PGA Tour's Genesis Invitational in Los Angeles earlier this month. Mr. Byrd received an exemption into the PGA Tour's Honda Classic in Florida last week.

While he no longer lives permanently in the District of Columbia, Mr. Byrd returns to the area to make a positive impact on young people. He has given back to the First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C. by participating in multiple Politics and Pros events and by conducting clinics for young participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Marcus Byrd for his success in professional golf.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JON ASHER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jon Asher.

As the Executive Director of Colorado's Legal Services, Jon has dedicated his life to helping others and ensuring that Colorado's legal system is accessible to all those who need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

I have known and admired Jon for over 40 years. The Colorado legal community will agree that he's not just one of Colorado's greatest legal minds, he's also one of the most selfless.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1971, Jon moved to Greeley, Colorado where he began his legal career as a staff attorney with Colorado Rural Legal Services. Little did Jon know that this was the start of a long career of service.

His talent and intellect were evident to all those who worked with him, and Jon quickly rose through the ranks to become head of the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver in 1980—a position he would hold for the next 18 years.

When Colorado's three legal aid societies decided to come together to form one statewide legal aid program in 1999, Jon was the easy choice to run it; and it was then that he became the first Executive Director of the newly formed Colorado Legal Services—a position he has held ever since.

Under Jon's leadership, Colorado Legal Services has become one of the Nation's premier legal aid organizations—with a staff of more than 80 attorneys and 55 paralegals in 13 regional offices across Colorado.

Jon's reputation as a tireless and effective advocate for low-income and disadvantaged individuals in our state is seen in the quality of the work that Colorado Legal Services has done and continues to do to this day.

Throughout his career, Jon has been recognized, both in Colorado and throughout the Nation, for his talent and dedication to providing those who otherwise couldn't afford it with the quality legal representation they deserve. While his professional achievements are far too many to count, those who know Jon will agree that it's not the awards or recognition that drove him throughout his career—it's the thousands of people he's been able to help along the way.

After more than 50 years of dedicating himself to providing top-notch legal assistance to seniors and low-income individuals across our state, Jon announced recently that he plans to retire as the head of Colorado's Legal Services this summer. While there's no doubt that he will certainly be leaving behind some big shoes to fill, the organization he's helped to build from the ground up has never been stronger, and its ongoing success is all but guaranteed thanks to the tireless work that Jon and his colleagues have put into it over the years.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's First Congressional District, I want to express my profound thanks to Jon for all he's done for our state over the years—and his tireless efforts to help so many people along the way. And I want to wish him the very best during his much-deserved retirement.

COMMEMORATING CARES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a tremendous asset in the communities I serve. For more than 50 years, CARES has been working to create a caring community committed to strengthening lives and creating positive futures for seniors in Pasco and Hernando counties. CARES serves people from all walks of life through their personal journey of aging and offers a broad spectrum of services and programs to help seniors live as they wish—Independently in their own homes.

CARES In-Home Health delivers assistance to help low-income, frail elders with basic services to ensure they are able to maintain their independence in a safe manner. CARES Senior Centers help elderly individuals stay connected to their world and their community through social activities, computer learning, educational programs, wellness initiatives and recreational activities. Research has shown that remaining active and engaged is positively correlated with living a longer, healthier life and CARES helps to make that a reality for many.

CARES also provides critical respite services through its Adult Day Care programs. Through this initiative, caregivers have the peace of mind of knowing their loved ones are supervised while they take some personal time away from caregiving. And, CARES runs a senior health clinic to serve those who are 55 years and older, low-income, and uninsured. It was my privilege to advocate for this tremendous agency by sponsoring a community budget request to secure \$2.5 million to for CARES to expand its footprint in the area. These funds will be used to purchase land and build an 8,000 square foot "One Stop Senior Center." CARES anticipates promoting quality of life and independence for frail and vulnerable seniors and their families at this center. A safe environment where the lives of senior citizens and their caregivers and families of West/Central Pasco will be enriched by the existence of a "One Stop Senior Center" geared to assist these individuals with in-home and community care to remain living inde-

pendently in their communities and prevent institutional/nursing home placement. Other direct services will include Adult Day Care facility, Case Management to provide information and referrals; mental health counseling and a FREE Health Clinic for non-invasive medical care.

As we celebrate this important milestone in CARES history, we look forward to another 50 years of outstanding service to local seniors throughout our community.

HONORING SAN ANGELO COMMUNITY LEADER JAMES HUFFMAN

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the hard work of San Angelo's very own James Huffman, who is being rightly being recognized with the Texas Southwest Council, Boy Scouts of America's prestigious Distinguished Citizen Award—an annual recognition of those who give freely of their time and talents to improve the quality of life for our community, Nation, and world.

James is an Eagle Scout, a family man, distinguished businessman, and servant to our community. His impact to San Angelo and the greater area cannot be overstated.

He earned his degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas Tech University and embarked on a career that led him back to San Angelo in 1984. Later, he earned his CPA certification and opened his own accounting practice.

Through the years, Mr. Huffman has been awarded for his achievements including his 1995 Small Business Administration's San Antonio-District CPA of the Year Award and in 2004 Innovation in Texas Award for his Cross Cut Wood Company from the Texas Railroad Commission.

Mr. Huffman has been very involved in many civic duties in West Texas. He serves, or has served, on the Rawls School of Business Dean's Advisory Council, as a Board member of the Concho Valley Center for Entrepreneurial Development, a member of the Sonora Downtown Lion's Club and San Angelo Jaycees, on the board of the San Angelo Area-wide Foundation, and he helped establish the San Angelo Safari Club chapter in 2014 as a board member as well as serving as the Vice President from 2014 to 2021.

In 2011, James joined the Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts of America's Texas Southwest Council, serving on the executive committee and as Chair of the Property Committee.

I am grateful for the impact James has made on our community.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR FIGHTING WILDFIRES ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Military Support for Fighting